

For further information contact West Virginia Agricultural Statistics, Charleston, West Virginia 25305, or call 1 (800) 535-7088 or E-mail at nass-wv@nass.usda.gov.

February 25, 2005

JANUARY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA— Commercial red meat production during January 2005 totaled 600,000 pounds. This was down 15 percent from January 2004, and down 27 percent from December 2004 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 868,000 pounds live weight, down 9 percent from January 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 900 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 942 pounds, was up 8 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 154,000 pounds live weight, down 21 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 600 head, down 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 259 pounds, was up 2 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

UNITED STATES- Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.65 billion pounds in January, down 2 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in January 2004.

Beef production, at 1.92 billion pounds, was slightly below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.53 million head, down 2 percent from January 2004. The average live weight was 1,262 pounds, up 13 pounds from January a year ago.

Veal production totaled 13.3 million pounds, 17 percent below January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 67,700 head, down 14 percent from January 2004. The average live weight was 329 pounds, down 7 pounds from January a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.70 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.48 million head, 4 percent below January 2004. The average live weight was 270 pounds, up 1 pound from January a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.4 million pounds, was down 7 percent from January 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 208,500 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, down 3 pounds from January a year ago.

January 2004 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

January 2005 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays.